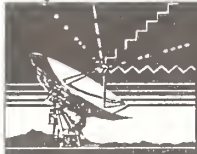


## **Historic, Archive Document**

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.



2521. A87F3



# Broadcasters Letter

United States Department of Agriculture • Office of Communications • Washington, DC 20250-1300

Letter No. 2687

November 10, 1994

**CROP DISASTER RELIEF** -- About \$1 billion in emergency disaster aid will be available to farmers with damaged crops due to adverse weather conditions in 1994. Abnormal weather patterns, causing excessive rainfall or drought, have led to substantial crop losses in isolated but widespread areas of the country. Farmers suffering losses can apply for emergency assistance at their local Farm Service Agency office beginning on December 1. **Contact: Bruce Merkle (202) 720-8206.**

**1994-CROP FEED GRAINS** -- Producers will be allowed to enter 1994-crop corn, grain sorghum, barley and oats into USDA's Farmer Owned Reserve (FOR). FOR entry is allowed because the average market price for corn for the 90 days preceding this announcement was less than 120 percent of the price support rate, a statutory price trigger. Producers must file their intentions to place feed grains in the FOR with their local Farm Services Agency office by April 30. **Contact: Bruce Merkle (202) 720-8206.**

**BE A TURKEY GENIE-US!** -- The USDA Meat and Poultry Hotline can turn you into a turkey "genie-us." If you're like most people, the three things you'd wish a genie could do, turkey-wise, are defrost it, cook it and put the leftovers away. If you buy a fresh turkey, you can save one wish. The easiest way to defrost a turkey is to put the frozen turkey in the refrigerator and allow one day for every 5 pounds. If you haven't allowed enough time, there are two faster, safe ways to defrost a frozen turkey. Use the cold water method or the microwave. For more information about food safety, call a "turkey genie-us" at the USDA Meat and Poultry Hotline toll free at 1-800-535-4555. **Contact: Susan Conley (202) 720-7943.**

**ADDITIONAL LOANS ON '94-CROP CORN** -- USDA will offer recourse loans to producers who have corn that has been cracked, rolled or crimped. The 9-month farm-stored recourse loans are available to eligible producers of 1994-crop at 70 percent of the country price support rate. The entire measured quantity will be eligible. **Contact: Bruce Merkle (202) 720-8206.**

**SUGAR MARKETING ALLOTMENTS** -- USDA announced (November 2) the final marketing allotments and allocations for sugar and crystalline fructose for fiscal year 1995. The preliminary marketing allotments and allocations were revised based on new data submitted by processors and updated USDA estimates of beet and cane sugar production. USDA also announced a reassignment of 138,948 short tons of Hawaii's and Puerto Rico's marketing allotments to Florida, Louisiana, and Texas. **Contact: Bruce Merkle (202) 720-8206.**

**NEW PRICING FOR MILK** -- USDA is recommending multiple component pricing for milk priced under the Chicago Regional, Nebraska-Western Iowa, Upper Midwest, Eastern South Dakota and Iowa federal milk orders. The multiple component pricing plan for all five orders would price milk based on its protein and other nonfat solids components, as well as butterfat. The proposed plan includes adjustments per hundredweight of all producer milk based on the somatic cell count of the milk. **Contact: Connie Crunkleton (202) 720-8998.**

**U.S. PORK EXPORTS** -- Agriculture Secretary Mike Espy announced (November 2) an opportunity for sales of an additional 20,000 metric tons of U.S. pork to 7 independent states of the former Soviet Union under the USDA's Export Enhancement Program (EEP). Sales of pork will be made to buyers in Armenia, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Moldova, Russia and Ukraine through commercial channels at competitive prices. **Contact: Tom Amontree (202) 720-4623.**

**FGIS PROPOSES FEE INCREASE** -- USDA's Federal Grain Inspection Service proposed (November 3) increasing fees for services provided by its Commodity Testing Laboratory in Beltsville, MD. David Shipman, acting FGIS administrator, said, "FGIS has contained costs at the laboratory through program efficiencies and streamlining actions." While these actions reduced certain costs, the overall operating cost of the laboratory increased by eight percent between fiscal years 1992 and 1993. Concurrently, there was a 17 percent decrease in revenue due to fewer service requests. **Contact: Dana Stewart (202) 720-5091.**

**HIGHER EGG ASSESSMENT** -- The nation's egg producers voted in a Sept. 29-Oct. 14 referendum to increase the mandatory assessment to the American Egg Board to 10 cents per 30-dozen case of eggs. A total of 66.4 percent of egg producers voting in the referendum approved an amendment to the order raising the assessment. For the referendum to pass, at least two-thirds of the voting producers, or a majority of producers representing at least two-thirds of the volume of eggs produced by all voters, had to favor the amendment. **Contact: Connie Crunkleton (202) 720-8998.**

**SAFE CANOLA** -- USDA will no longer regulate certain genetically engineered laurate-producing canola plants. John Payne, acting director of biotechnology, biologics and environmental protection for USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, says these canola lines do not present a plant pest risk. They contain gene sequences derived from the California bay laurel tree with other regulatory sequences from other organisms. The result of the genetic change is that these canola lines accumulate laurate in the seeds. Laurate is a major component in laundry detergent and shampoo. Edible uses of laurate include nondairy coffee whiteners and whipped toppings. Current sources of laurate are coconut- and palm-kernel oils. **Contact: Cynthia A. Eck (301) 436-5931.**

**FOREST HEALTH INITIATIVE** -- James R. Lyons, under secretary for natural resources and environment, announced (November 4) 36 proposed forest health projects to be undertaken by the USDA's Forest Service over the next 24 months. The projects, some of which focus on areas heavily damaged by this summer's forest fires, are part of a Western Forest Health Initiative. The projects cover a range of management actions needed to address those and other problems and include: reforestation of burned forest lands, restoration of watersheds, reductions of excessive levels of understory vegetation which can fuel wildfires, and salvage of timber burned in this summer's fires. **Contact: John Denne (202) 205-1134.**

**AFRICAN HORSE SICKNESS** -- USDA has proposed to declare Spain free of African horse sickness, which would reduce the quarantine requirements for horses being imported into the U.S. from Spain. This proposed rule would remove Spain from USDA's list of countries where African horse sickness (AHS) is known to exist. USDA importation requirements for horses from countries on the list are stringent to prevent this exotic disease from being introduced into the U.S. horse population. AHS is a highly infectious viral disease that spreads among equine by biting insects. It occurs in Africa and the Middle East but has never been reported in the Americas or Australia. **Contact: Kendra Pratt (301) 436-4898.**



## FROM OUR RADIO SERVICE

**AGRICULTURE USA # 1954** -- In this edition, Brenda Curtis reviews issues related to the 1995 Farm Bill. (Weekly cassette -- 13-1/2 minute documentary).

**CONSUMER TIME # 1435** -- The greying American farm; the invisible itch caper; maxing those credit cards; how much mulch can a wood chip mulch?; seafood safety. (Weekly cassette -- 2-1/2 to 3 minute consumer features).

**AGRITAPE FEATURES # 1944** -- Farm bill buzzwords; feed grain into Farmer Owned Reserve; recourse loans for '94 crop corn; bees deliver biocontrol agent; a farming game for Russia. (Weekly cassette -- news features).

**UPCOMING ON USDA RADIO NEWSLINE** -- Monday-Friday, November 14-18, special reports filed by Brenda Curtis from the midwest during a tour of the area's wetlands. Friday, November 18, cattle on feed report; ag outlook report; Monday, November 21, catfish processing report; wheat outlook; Tuesday, November 22, cotton and wool outlook; livestock, dairy and poultry outlook; U.S. farm trade update; weekly weather and crop update; Wednesday, November 23, poultry outlook. Thursday, November 24, HOLIDAY. **These are USDA reports we know about in advance. Our newslines carries many stories every day which are not listed in this lineup.**

**USDA RADIO NEWSLINES (202) 488-8358 or 8359.**

**COMREX ENCODED (202) 720-2545**

Material changed at 5 p.m., EDT, each working day.

## FROM OUR TELEVISION SERVICE

**FEATURES:** Lynn Wyvill reports on food safety tips for handling a "take-out" ready-prepared Thanksgiving feast. For those cooking their own feast, Lynn Wyvill reports on turkey food safety basics and how to safely grill a turkey.

### SATELLITE COORDINATES FOR TV NEWSFEEDS:

*Galaxy 7, Transponder 9, Channel 9, Audio 6.2 or 6.8, Downlink frequency 3880 Mhz.  
Available on Thursdays 3:45 - 4:00 p.m., EDT; Mondays 11:00 - 11:15 a.m., EDT.*

Comments and suggestions are welcome regarding USDA broadcast services.  
Call Larry A. Quinn, (202) 720-6072; write 1618-S, USDA, Washington, D.C. 20250-1300.

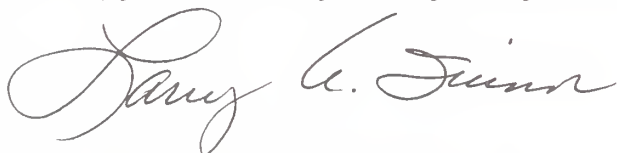
## OFF MIKE

**FOUR-STATE WETLANDS TOUR...**will include Brenda Curtis of our Radio Team, November 14-18. She will be accompanying USDA Natural Resources and Conservation Service (formerly Soil Conservation Service) officials, as well as representatives of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, EPA, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, farm organizations and state natural resource officials on a tour of wetlands of the midwest. Sites include Ft. Dodge, IA; Worthington, MN; and Fargo, ND. Brenda will be reporting daily for our Radio Newsline on issues relating to wetlands restoration and the future of the Conservation Reserve Program. Watch for upcoming feature programming as a result of this tour.

**THANKSGIVING FOOD SAFETY...**should be on our minds by now. Lynn Wyvill of our TV Team produced a package of food safety features with tips from USDA's Meat and Poultry Hotline for the holiday. Features cover how to safely handle a ready-prepared Thanksgiving dinner, how to cook a turkey at home and how to use a grill to safely prepare a turkey. If you missed the features on the USDA TV News Satellite feed this week, you can call Wanda Sullivan at USDA's Meat & Poultry Hotline for a broadcast copy. Wanda's number is **202-720-5604**.

**INTERESTING USE...**of our **Broadcasters Letter** reported by Judy Oskam formerly at Oklahoma State University, now an undergraduate college professor at Texas Tech University. Judy writes that she plans to use our letter in her public relations and telecommunications classes.

**MANY THANKS...**to all who have responded to our readership survey for the **Broadcasters Letter**. Your comments are important to us. If you haven't responded yet, it's not too late. Please mail or fax us your completed survey, including your name and address. If you need a copy of the survey, call Lynn Wyvill **202-720-9951**.



**LARRY A. QUINN, Director**  
Video, Teleconference and Radio Center



United States Department of Agriculture  
Office of Communications  
Room 1618-S  
Washington, DC 20250-1300

OFFICIAL BUSINESS  
Penalty for Private Use \$300